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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 388. FEBRUARY, 1939.

UNITY. DIVERSITY. FRIENDSHIP.

I Cor. xii, 5.—"Diversity of workings, but the same God."

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Ordination of the Rev. Reginald W. Wilde, M.A, B.Sc., will take place in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Friday, February 3rd, 1939, at 11-30. Mr. Wilde will thus be brought into a succession which dates from the founding of the Church of Scotland, by the landing of missionaries at Candida Casa, (the White House) now Whithorn, in Wigtownshire, a continuity which is claimed by all Presbyterians, for it was from Scotland that Presbyterianism came to Ireland, and struck its roots at Ballycarry. Mr. Wilde becomes as much a Presbyterian minister, in law, as is a minister of the Church of Scotland or the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Free from subscription to standards of faith, he has a right to speak the Truth as his heart and conscience teach it. In our December number, Mr. Wilde's career and qualifications were set forth; among those, was his skill in attracting and holding young people. That, to-day, is becoming an increasing problem, and we have every confidence he will bring new ideas and fresh life into this vital section of the Church's activities. In the public life of the town he is leaving, he attained a respected position of influence and useful service, and in Belfast, with all its educational, municipal and cultural enterprise, we trust that doors of opportunity will open out, and that the First Church congregation will be mindful of the pledge it has given him, "to reverence him for his work's sake." In welcoming Mr. Wilde, we welcome also Mrs. Wilde.

The Rev. REGINALD WILLIAM WILDE, M.A., B.Sc., Minister-Elect of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast

* * *

Killinchy is set in a gem of romantic beauty. Its commodious Meeting House, with its extensive grounds, is a land-mark; and it is blessed by having a bright, warm-hearted intelligent people, giving the impression of a "high tone" in the congregation. A "successor and assistant" to the Emeritus Minister, the Rev. D. J. Williams, is now awaited, and we hope that when a settlement is decided upon, it will be a happy and prosperous one.

* * *

The work of the Domestic Mission, Stanhope Street, Belfast, under its present devoted missioner, the Rev. W. O. Rowland, should be in the minds of all our members for thoughts of goodwill encouragement and support. This winter has been an exceptionally severe one, and only those who enter the homes of the very poor, and are in close contact with them, realise the silent tragedy of it all, especially where little children are concerned. Calls are made regularly over the "wireless," for help urgently needed for great and worthy objects; and in other ways appeals are continually being made. Here is one, entirely unsolicited, but which is made because of its

mute appeal. On the occasion of the Annual Sermons and Meeting, we may give some thought to the Mission; but, always the Master's work is being done close at home, in the Domestic Mission.

* * *

Mrs. V. Colvin, who has been appointed Agent in charge at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, has had several years of experience in assisting the late Mr. J. H. Gilliland, and has always a welcome to visitors to the Depository. Mrs. V. Colvin has our hearty good wishes.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

March, 1939, number published on February 25th. Copy sent in before February 18th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

The two Alms Dishes with the inscription *John Heseltons Gift to all the Meeting houses in Belfast 172*' are the joint property of the First and Second Congregations, Belfast, and are at present in possession of the Trustees of the older Congregation, or "parent hive."

As the Rev. A. Gordon, M.A., gives no particulars in his *Historic Memorials of the First Presbyterian Church of Belfast*, but limits his statement to "Inscription on Old Plate," the following historic facts may not be without interest to your readers.

The only information we have regarding the donor is what is contained in the *Funeral Register*, also Joint Property, wherein it is recorded under the year 1721:—"Epr. 8 John Haselton, Elder, pr his wife," which indicates that on 8th April, 1721, funeral cloaks were hired to the wife of John Haselton, described as an Elder.

The gift seems to have been a *donatio mortis causa* and its specific terms are contained in the words of the inscription which must be construed as *in esse* and not *in futuro*. As there were only two Meeting-houses in Belfast in 1721 they must be regarded as "all the Meeting houses in Belfast."

It may be mentioned that the Third Congregation was "erected" by the Presbytery in 1721; confirmed by the General Synod in June, 1722; and, in the following September, Mr. Samuel Smith, formerly a member of the First Congregation, visited Scotland to collect money for building the proposed Third Meeting House, which was thus not in existence at the date of Heselton's gift in 1721.

S. SHANNON MILLIN.

REPORTS.

Ballyhemlin — The distribution of prizes to the Sunday-school and choir, took place in the Session Room, on Sunday, January 1st. The prizes were distributed by F. M. Allen, Esq., Nunsquarter, Kirkcubbin.

Ministers' Conference—The 326th meeting was held at the Carlton Restaurant, Donegall Place, Belfast, on Jan. 9th, tne Rev. F. Munford, B.A., B.L., of Mountpottinger, being the host. Messages were received from ministers unable to be present, and the news was welcomed, that the Rev. J. A. Kelly's health had greatly improved, and he had intended being present, if that had been possible. The Rev. C. J. Montgomery, M.A., was present, having fully recovered from the effects of his accident. The desire was again expressed that the ministry of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church should link up with this Conference, as there is very much that is of vital interest in our Church in Ireland that needs clarifying, and brethren in solitary outposts may be greatly cheered and strengthened by the encouragement they can receive. The principal topic of discussion was how to provide interest for the young people in the way of social life and fraternity. The Young Farmers' Union had shown very great vigour and resource in its many activities. There was no doubt that crowds attract crowds, but, that wasn't always possible in connection with our congregations. Were our young people good mixers? They might be in their own congregations; but, when it came to joining something with those of other congregations, it depended largely on a sense of duty, rather than something they could go to spontaneously, and with good heart. In Belfast, there had been occasions when the best possible talent in the city had been secured; but, when the artistes went down to the hall, wherever it might be, the audience scarcely equalled the number of artistes themselves. With the wireless it was now possible to get, at home, even better entertainment than a social could provide. There were remote places, where the school or the church hall was never opened on a week night from year-end to year-end, to provide a bit of warmth and light and cheerfulness. These were now the days of the Cinema, and buses could easily take the young people from country places right into the city. There were many such questions to be taken stock of, and to consider, because of their vital importance. If there was to be a big gathering, say, at the local Methodists, just for the company and the sake of getting together with others, many of our young people might be there; although, in addresses that were given, what was said might be very different from their own faith; but, as a matter of fact with the average, it might be possible that one sermon was just as good as another, for all the attention they gave to it.

One urgent need, is that of a place to call our own in the city of Belfast, when those belonging to us come up from the country, and have quite a long time to wait about, and a room where such can wait, and perhaps meet others. In London at Essex Hall, and in Manchester at the Memorial Hall, arrangements to meet such requirements have been made. The meeting was a very inspiring and informative one, and it is to be hoped that all our ministers will sooner or later be in touch with this conference. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 6th, at 3 p.m., at 150 King's Road, Knock. Cherry-valley or Gilnahirk buses leave the front of the City Hall or Robb's, High Street, at frequent intervals. House is within a short distance of the foot of Cherry-valley Gardens. We have a correction to make in last month's report,—the name of the lady who acted provisionally as hostess was not Miss Agnew, but Miss Weatherall.

Women's League. — The Killinchy Branch held a very successful concert in the Bishop Hall, on Tuesday, 22nd November. Mr. R. M. Laird very kindly provided the programme, which was outstandingly good, and was greatly appreciated by a large and representative audience. The chair was occupied by Mrs. J. G. Davies, who, in that capacity, could not be excelled. The artistes were as follows:—Songs, Mr. R. M. Laird; juvenile folk dances, Miss Bridie McGlinchy; songs, soprano, Miss Duthie; recitation, Mrs. Hutchinson; character songs, Mr. Cowzer; songs,

contralto, Miss McFarland; folk dances, and folk songs, Mr. Peadar O'Rafferty. A vote of thanks to all who had contributed to make the concert a success, was proposed by Miss I. McMaster and seconded by Miss M. McIlwrath. The singing of the National Anthem brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

The Xmas Social took place on Tuesday evening, December 20th. Twenty-six members were present from Comber branch, but none from Moneyreagh, due to the frosty and dangerous condition of the roads. A half-time Beetle Drive was held. Comber winners were Miss Adams and Miss Heron. Killinchy winners, Miss Betty Finlay and Miss I. McMaster. After tea a play was presented — "Apartments to Let' by Mrs. H. Kelly, Miss S. M. Haye, Miss Mary McClements and the Misses Gilmore.

Mountpottinger — The annual Sale of Work was held in the Schoolroom, on Friday, December 9th, when the opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. James Andrews (of Comber), the chair being occupied by Mrs. George Gardiner (of Holywood). The weather was not too favourable, but in spite of this drawback a goodly number of friends and members rallied round. The nett proceeds fell short of the previous year's efforts by a few pounds, but under all conditions the result was considered satisfactory by the Church branch of the Women's League which had charge of the Sale.

On Sunday, December 18th, a Children's Choir which had been trained by Messrs. A. Corbett and L. Watters, with the assistance of the minister, sang a short selection of Christmas Carols at the evening service.

Christmas Day falling on a Sunday caused the Church Committee to arrange for morning service only and this took the form of a Carol service when the Children's Choir sang several of the better known Carols and the minister gave a short address suitable to the occasion. Miss N. McCullough sang two solos and Miss E. Keith contributed violin solos. The whole service was worthy of a larger congregation than mustered for the occasion. From the pulpit the minister read a Christmas message sent by Mrs. E. Hessenmueller of Pittsburgh, Pa., a former member of the congregation who visited her old friends during last summer. This kindly thought was much appreciated.

E.R.J.

County Town Dance — Downpatrick Assembly Hall was nicely decorated for the Non-Subscribing Presbyterians' annual dance, to music by Albert Gray's band, the company numbering 190. Messrs. G. Chambers, L.D.S., and J. Dickson were M.C.'s, and the catering was by Messrs. White, of Comber. Prizes for novelty dances were won by Mrs. Shearer, Mr. R. M. Chambers and Mr. and Mrs. J. McManus. Proceeds, to the manse fund.

The best dance of the season is the description of above, and the company as "the cream of Lecale."

It is proposed to have another about Easter for manse fund.

All Souls' Church, Belfast:— At the Welsh service on Sunday, December 11th, a fair number were present to hear the Rev. Dare Davies give a very inspiring address. The collection was given towards our poor Children's Party.

The Cantata on Sunday evening, the 18th December, was beautifully, and feelingly rendered, and the singing was of a very high standard. Great credit is due to Mr. Kenny the organist, and to the choir, to those friends who came to help us, especially Miss J. Brownlee, Miss M. Clarke, Mr. J. Dickson, Mr. H. Martin, and Mr. Sharpe.

The Young People's Party on December 21st, was well attended and the crypt looked very cosy with the new curtains and the Christmas decorations.

The big event of last month was the Poor Children's Party, on December 22nd. Again this year we recruited the children from the Grosvenor Hall, but this year we increased the numbers to one hundred. If it were possible, the party was even more enjoyable than last year. I wish to thank those who helped to make the Party a success, the ladies who prepared the tea, the Troop of Girl Guides who gave an entertainment, and the friends who contributed so generously towards the cost of the Party. Each child was given a New Penny and a parcel as he or she left.

At the service on Christmas morning the special anthem was beautifully rendered, and the singing of the Carol by the children was a delight. The collection which amounted to £3 15s. 0d. was handed over to the Jewish relief fund.

Badminton every Monday, 6-30 to 11 p.m.

Young People's Meeting every Wednesday, 8 to 11 p.m.

Banbridge—A very cold night: snow was threatening. But it was the last but one of the Old Year's days, and it was the day of our annual Party. Not such a big gathering as usual; but a large and jolly one. "The Grand Old Duke of York," "Musical Arms," and of course, "The Farmer Wants a Wife" were played again and again, nearly all joining in. Mrs. Stevenson and Miss McKeown accompanied. The ladies served a most enjoyable tea—the buns and cakes were delicious. Then Miss McCaw kindly and graciously handed the children their prizes. These were awards for attendance at Bible Class, Sunday School and League of Loyalty. With the exception of one day (a bad cold on Christmas Day!) little Miss Doreen Radcliffe had a complete attendance for the year. Others too were specially mentioned for they only missed two or three Sundays: they were: May Derby, Stanley Matchett, Willie Lyons, Fred Martin, Jim Stevenson and Peggy Radcliffe; and in the Bible Class: Elsie Martin and Ella Godding. The minister, introducing, had special praise for the two conscientious teachers. They had deservedly happy classes. A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to them, Miss McKeown and Mr. W. MacNeil, by enthusiastic acclamation. And as for the scholars themselves he referred to the memories these children would have in future years of their happy days in Sunday School and Church. The older people present understood. Then, though six days after Christmas, Santa Claus put in an appearance, resplendent in red gown and hood (or is it 'cowl?') and glorious white beard and fat rosy cheeks. Mr. Willie MacNeil was not to be seen while Santa Claus was present. Where was he? About 80 toys and gifts were distributed from his lucky bag. He was given a hearty clap of appreciation before he left us, and he responded with 'A Happy New Year to all.' One more game (of course, "The Farmer Wants a Wife") the Benediction, and the King. One last minute surprise. Some cakes had been left over. There were soon disposed of! Then out into the cold again, and this time huge snow-flakes were falling silently but fast. It was a real Christmas and New Year Party: one of our best after all.

Ballee—A Whist Drive was held on Friday, November 4th. There was a good attendance, and the proceeds were in aid of Church Funds. Hearty thanks are due to Mr. Harold Caven who officiated as M.C. The Sunday School Scholars' annual Party and prize-giving was held in the School-room, on Wednesday, December 28th. After an ample tea games were played, following which came the distribution of prizes by Mrs. Jas. Strain. It was a happy and enjoyable occasion. On Saturday, January 8th, a successful cake, produce, and jumble sale was held. Cordial thanks are accorded to the friends who gave gifts and donations, and to the ladies and gentlemen whose co-operation made the sale such a successful event.

Women's League—Through the kindness and hospitality of Mrs. Robert Kennedy, Pembroke House, Sandhurst Road, the Junior Branch of the Women's League held a very successful Military Whist Drive on 11th inst., the proceeds thereof amounting to £3 10s. The Junior Branch of the Women's League desire to announce a forthcoming Dance in the Central Hall, on Monday evening, 20th February. Dancing 7-30 till 12 p.m. Subscription (including supper) 2/6. Dress optional. Tickets may be had from any members of the Junior Branch, or at the Depository, 35, Rosemary Street.

Templepatrick—Recent Winter activities have included a Whist Drive and Jumble Sale, both of them pleasant and profitable. In December, the minister conducted a service in support of the Widows' Fund of the Loughfort Orange Lodge. The service was held in the

Orange Memorial Hall, Hyde Park, and was attended by the district officers. The annual Christmas Party was held in the local Masonic Hall, by kind permission. Tea and an entertainment were provided. Also a Christmas Tree, presided over by Father Christmas. Later, all the Sunday School children received gift books.

Killinchy — The Rev. D. J. Williams brought his ministry of almost thirty years to a close on the last Sunday of 1938. The members of the congregation felt deeply touched when Mr. Williams bade them "good-bye" after such a long period of affectionate friendship and faithful service. They desired to give to Mr. Williams a tangible expression of their appreciation of his kindly ministry among them, and a deputation waited upon him at the Manse, and on behalf of the congregation, presented him with a wallet containing a substantial sum of money.

The following letter from Mr. Williams to the congregation was read from the pulpit by the Rev. J. Glynne Davies on Sunday, January 1st, when the Killinchy pulpit was declared vacant.

My dear Mr. Osborne,

I am writing this from Nottingham where I am staying with my son Arnold. I arrived here this morning after a long and somewhat tiring journey, but before I do anything else I feel I must send a few lines of thanks to the Killinchy congregation, not only for the long years of pleasant and happy companionship to which I have referred to before, but now, more precisely, for the latest act of friendship which Messrs. Kelly, Finlay, and yourself performed on Tuesday night last.

It was in keeping with the sympathy and consideration which the congregation has always shown me that I should be spared the distressing formality of a farewell meeting. After a thirty years' ministry one does not wish for a public demonstration.

So many of my friends in the Killinchy congregation, men and women of sterling character have slipped away silently one by one during the past yew years, and with them just twelve months ago, my dear wife, that I feel it fitting that I should lay down the reins of office quietly, remembering the friendship of those who are gone, and rejoicing in the assurance which you confirmed last Tuesday of the friendship of the young and old of the present congregation.

After a time I shall come back to Killinchy, for it is my home, and I shall continue to worship in the Meeting House which has meant so much to me. For the present then I say, au revoir. With my best wishes to you and to all the congregation for a bright New Year.

I am, yours sincerely,
D. J. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Davies paid tribute to Mr. Williams' long and faithful ministry at Killinchy—to the high standard of his preaching, his wide reading, and especially to his unfailing kindness and sympathy, and he expressed his pleasure, and that of the Killinchy congregation, that although he had retired from the ministry of their Church, he would continue to reside among them in their beautiful country-side.

Ballyclare—The annual S.S. Party and Prize distribution was held in the schoolroom, on Tuesday, 20th December. The Misses Laird, Nelson and Harson, with the capable help of Mrs. Ted Moore and Mrs. Edgar Bingham, spared no pains to make the afternoon and evening a success. The children had tea about six o'clock with the accompanying good things and later on the adults were treated to the same bountiful hospitality. After tea Mr. Bell spoke a few minutes to the children and we of older years once again realised the truth of "the word spoken in season how good it is." Our minister always manages to convey to his listeners—young or old — a message of cheer—simply and beautifully clothed. The prizes were then distributed and it is very gratifying to note that no less than six children completed the maximum attendance for the year—one little girl (Bobby Moore) has only missed one Sunday in seven years and that absence due to sickness. This is surely a fine tribute to the teachers and incidentally to the mothers who send their children out Sunday after Sunday. Santa Claus made his appearance as usual and from a well-filled sack every child got a gift. A programme of varied items followed—a very juvenile performer—Shaun Harson —gave two recitations, and Tommy

Vint was a great success in his singing of 'With me Shillelagh under me arm" —then he treated us to a "tap dance" in perfect rhythm. Mrs. Moore was at her usual place—the piano—thus ensuring perfect accompaniments. The evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne"—all joining with a heartiness worthy of this historic school-room.

Comber. — Our winter activities have been many and varied. The annual Armistice Service in connection with the local branch of the British Legion was held in our Church in November, when the Rev. C. Simpson, of Ballee, late of the Royal Engineers, conducted the service. There was a packed congregation present, and among them a record attendance of ex-servicemen.

The following Sunday the Orange Lodges of the Comber district held their annual service. We again had a full Church. The collection was in aid of the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Fund. The Rev. J. Glynne Davies conducted the service. At both these services the choir rendered special music in their usual efficient manner.

The Women's League have held three very successful meetings. Mrs. Hinkins, Crumlin, gave a graphic description of a tour round her native "Village," London. The talk was amplified by Mrs. James Andrews, who gave a vivid account of the Coronation of King George VI., and of a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. At this meeting songs were sung by Miss Betty Dempster and Mrs. Harry McCormick.

In December the annual Christmas Party was held, the guests being the members of the Killinchy branch. There was a company of sixty. Amusing competitions were held, including a Spelling-Bee—married ladies versus single ladies—this resulted in a win for the married ladies by two points. Humorous recitations were given by Mrs. Hutchinson, Belfast; tap-dances by the Misses Sally Stewart and Jean Davidson. A Play by members of the Comber Branch and daughters of members, brought a very happy and successful Party to a close. Prizes kindly given by Mrs. R. T. Taggart were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. James Andrews. At the January meeting a very interesting talk on "Italy," was given by Mrs. R. T. Taggart and this was greatly enjoyed. A "Beetle Drive" followed. This caused much amusement and excitement. The winners were Mrs. Copeland, Miss Ella McQuade and Miss Violet Adams.

The Young People's Guild has held three successful meetings. At the November gathering Mrs. H. McCormick was the soloist and interesting exhibitions of step-dancing were given by the Misses S. Stewart and J. Davidson. The rest of the evening was spent in dancing and competitions.

At the December meeting we had the good pleasure of having Miss Eileen Irvine of Belfast as soloist. Miss Irvine charmed the company with her golden contralto voice and her splendid artistry. We are deeply indebted to her for her kindness in coming among us and in responding so heartily to the numerous encores she received. Mr. Harry McCormick, in his usual delightful manner also contributed songs.

At this meeting, Miss Helen Ferguson, treasurer of the Guild, presented to Mrs. Hugh Smiley, on the occasion of her marriage, a beautiful water-colour picture of an Irish landscape, by an Irish artist. For several seasons Mrs. Smiley has acted as the Guild accompanist and has fulfilled her part with great efficiency and faithfulness.

Miss Ferguson, in making the presentation, expressed the good wishes of the members to Mr. and Mrs. Smiley, and spoke in eloquent terms of the loyalty and service of both to the Guild. The Rev. J. G. Davies also paid tribute to the friendship and good work in the Guild of both Mr. and Mrs. Smiley. Mr. and Mrs. Smiley both returned thanks to the members for their token of regard and for their good wishes.

In November, the Women's League held a jumble sale, which resulted in a profit of nearly £13. This enabled the branch to hand over £10 to the Church funds and also a contribution to the India Fund. The February meeting will be addressed by the Matron of Ards District Hospital, who will give a "Health Talk."

We very much regret having to hold over for want of space important items and letters.

"THE ROMANCE OF LORD HOWE ISLAND."

During the first fortnight in December, Mrs. Slipper gave a Lantern Lecture on the "Romance of Lord Howe Island," a small Island which is a British possession, and which is situated in the Pacific, 425 miles from the East Coast of Sydney.

This island was literally put on the map by her uncle, Thos. Bryant Wilson, in regard to its life and industries. More than half of the residents (who number about 130) are related to Mrs. Slipper. She is the first person in her family to take this long journey to see these relatives.

In the lecture she included descriptions of the various ports and places visited en route via S. Africa and Australia.

She gave the lecture four times in all. Once in Newry in aid of the funds of the Church. Once in Banbridge, in aid of the Benevolent fund connected with the Women's League. Also in the Domestic Mission, Standhope St., Belfast, and in the Hall of the Women's Unionist Association, Dock Division, Belfast.

All the lectures were illustrated by lantern slides, and were well attended.

Mrs. Slipper gave the story of the island with an account of her outward voyage, which was via the South Africa, Australia route, and emphasised the hospitality with which she met at the various ports at which the ship touched. Members of the Women's League, which has branches in all parts of the world, met her and entertained her most hospitably. She mentioned the names of various friends of the Unitarian denominations who had emigrated to Australia, including Sir William Hill Irvine, whose father built Dromalane Mill, Newry, and who rose to positions of the highest eminence. Sir William Hill Irvine, she said, was a cousin of Mr. J. E. Connor, J.P., Newry, and Mr. F. H. Mullan, B.A., solicitor, Newry.

Continuing, the lecturer said:—

When a child, I remember hearing from my mother, wonderful stories about this island on which my uncle, Thomas Bryant Wilson, my mother's brother, had settled in 1878. I was so enthralled by these stories I determined to visit it, although at that time I had not the slighest idea how to go about it. But the thought persisted and, as I firmly believe, the fates helped me (as I think they always do if one really desires a thing strongly enough). And so, after many years my desire has been fulfilled and I have had a most wonderful time visiting this lovely island of romance. Lord Howe Island was discovered by Captain Bell of H.M.S. Supply in 1788 when on his way from Port Jackson to Norfolk Island. He took possession of it and named it Lord Howe after the then Admiral of the Fleet.

The island is about ten miles long and from one half to one and a half miles wide. It is shaped like a Boomerang. The whole island is dominated by the twin Basaltic Mountains, Mt. Gower and Mt. Ligbird, which are situated at the extreme southern end, and both of which are between 3,000 and 4,000 ft. high; at the northern end is the mountainous headland of the Malabar, the crest of which, North Peak, is 714 ft. above sea level. The balance of the island is of coral formation with an overlying layer of sand and rich basaltic soil. Right across from the southern point to the northern there is a coral reef, and inside that there is a lovely lagoon where bathing, boating, swimming and fishing are indulged in at all times. The climate is ideal. Never any frost or snow. It is sub-tropical, the thermometer never being higher than 85 degrees in the summer and 58 degrees in the winter.

No words can describe the wondrous charm of this little island. No camera, no artist reproduce its beauties. Except for the mountains at either end, the island may be explored on foot in perfect comfort ,the tracks being good and the grades easy. Lord Howe is indeed a haven of rest; there is no hustle or bustle, just perfect peace and quietness

Should you however seek excitement you will surely get it; if fishing for the edible varieties is tame—try for the shark. You will also get some monster rock cod and king-fish.

On shore you can go mountaineering —climbing Mt. Gower will give you all the thrills you want. It is almost, but not quite inaccessible. But you cannot climb it in one day; you have to spend a night on the mountain. A walk to any of the beaches before breakfast, along palm fringed tracks, is a tonic which has no equal. The same track can be

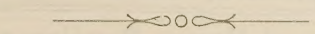
traversed on numerous occasions and fresh beauties discovered on every trip, and there is always the delihgtful swim either in the Lagoon or at Ned's beach where surf bathing can be indulged in.

Before I proceed to tell you more about this land of promise I must describe some of its first settlers. From 1843 to 1878 various folk settled on the island. They came from many parts of the world—America, Australia, London, England and Tasmania. Among them there was a Nathan Thompson, an American Whaler. Then, a little later on there was quite a romantic episode. A schooner arrived on which there was among the passengers a native Princess whose name was Te Fehi, a relation of Banparala, chief of the Ngatition Tribe of the Gilbert-Ellice group of the islands, from which they had escaped in a canoe. The natives had tried to recapture them but did not succeed. They reached the schooner safely, and the canoe was sent adrift. The story goes that the father of the Princess (who was very young) wished her to marry an old chief, which she was very unwilling to do, so with the help of the two native women she escaped. Eventually the schooner made Lord Howe Island where the party landed and made a home.

Nathan Thompson christened the girl Pearl, after Pearl Chase, Thompson's mother. Thompson watched her develop from maidenhood into the perfect woman. Then he married her, and thus was founded, shall I say, the house of Thompson on Lord Howe Island. About half of the residents are descendants of this romantic marriage, and the greater part of the other half are the descendants of Thomas Bryant Wilson, who had served in the Maori War in New Zealand, and who went ashore from a ship which was sheltering on the lee side of the island from a heavy storm. He was returning home to London at the time—but he never arrived—the charm of Lord Howe was too great, and his romantic temperament did the rest. He was persuaded to settle there, and afterwards became the islands first schoolmaster, being appointed officially by the New South Wales Government, of whom, in September, 1927, the Governor said, was the man who more than any other, helped them to speak the language of the English race, and to speak it well. He served in Queen Alexandera's bodyguard when she was crowned. A charming man of colossal energy and unquenchable devotion. On the island he was a sort of manifestation of Britain. He stood for all the British virtues and ideals, which he taught with a fine and valiant spirit in his people. He retained the position of schoolmaster for a long time, and set standards and traditions at Lord Howe which make all Britishers feel immediately at home. He also held evangelistic services in his home, as, at that time, there was not any church on the island. But finally he succeeded in getting sufficient money to build a small one and it stands there as a monument to him to this day. Services are held regularly by a resident clergyman. He married his eldest pupil, who was the eldest daughter of Nathan Chase Thompson and Pearl, the native Princess. Mr. Willie Thompson, the eldest son, is a well-known identity on the island, and a few years ago was the recipient of the King's Jubilee Medal.

Gower Chase Wilson, the eldest son of Thos. Bryant Wilson is the best known descendant of the second romantic marriage, and he was so highly thought of that, when in Sydney four years ago, he was entertained at a dinner by about eighty gentlemen (tourists at one time or another) at the Wentworth Hotel, where the most eulogistic speeches were made in his honour. The island is administered from Sydney, by a Board who practically hold it in trust for the islanders, who pay no rent or land tax for the area they occupy and cultivate. No outsiders may select land, the whole being reserved for the original islanders and their families.

After three delightful months on Lord Howe, it was with deep regret that I embarked on the homeward bound steamer. I was the first of my family to make this long trip to the island to see the home of my famous relative, Thomas Bryant Wilson, and his descendants.



Death.—Miss Jane Ferguson of Bangor, died on Thursday, Jan. 12th, at the age of 87. She was a daughter of the late James Ferguson, of Ballysallagh; she is survived by one sister, the last of a family of ten.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following are the Subjects for the Essay Competition for 1939:—

1. "Tell the story of Gideon."
2. "Why do we hold Harvest Festivals."
3. "The Story of our English Bible."
4. The Hymn—"A little Kingdom, I possess, Where thoughts and feelings dwell, etc."
   No. 51, in the Scholars' Hymn Book—What does this hymn teach us?
5. Why be honest and truthful?
6. The meaning of the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

A Special Prize is offered for an Essay on the subject—"What do we owe to the Jewish Race?"

Competition for this Essay is open to all **young people** connected with the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, whether or not they are members of the **Sunday** School.

Essays are to be written on one side of paper only.

Name, age, and the Sunday School the competitor attends are to be written on front page, **which must contain nothing else**—front page to be detachable.

Essays of competitors over twelve years of age must be of not less than 500 words.

Essays are to reach me not later than Tuesday, 16th May, 1939.

REV. J. GLYNNE DAVIES,
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Comber, Belfast.

Marriage. — **Brown** — **Little.**—On Jan. 18th, at Dundonald, Thomas John Brown, of Warrenpoint, to May Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jason Little, Dunleady, Dundonald.

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OBITUARY.

Mrs. Evelina Parker.

The Templepatrick Church records, with deep regret, the passing of the oldest member, Mrs. Evelina Parker, at the age of 93 years. Mrs. Parker, whose maiden name was Campbell, belonged to a branch of the Campbell family long and honourably associated with the ministry of the church. She exhibited a strong personality and vigour of mind in her prime, but has been fading away peacefully during recent years. Still more sad to relate, her son, James, aged 65 years, predeceased her by three weeks, after a brief illness. He was a man of sterling character, and of a modest, retiring disposition. The church suffers greatly by these losses, but is grateful for these lives of practical goodness and devotion to the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

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